

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, line 2 with the following:

"Color printers use a technique referred to as black generation to produce values for the cyan-magenta-yellow-black (CMYK) inks for any given gray level. Note that the term ink is used to include inks and toners. For example, if black generation were at 100%, or maximum black, the following values would result:

C: 50 M: 25 Y: 10, prior to removal;  
C: 40 M: 15 Y: 0 K: 10.

For black generation at a 50% level, the following values would result:

C: 50 M: 25 Y: 10, prior to removal;  
C: 45 M: 20 Y: 5 K: 5.

In this manner, black is set equal to a percentage of the lowest CMY value, that value is reduced to by the black value, and that amount is subtracted from the remaining colors."

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 4, with the following:

"An example of black generation table values, k\_generate\_table from the equations above, is shown by curve 10 in Figure 1. As can be seen, the black generation value is essentially zero for lower gray component values. Gray component density is the current gray level expressed as a percentage of the highest gray level attainable. The actual percentage is the gray component density value. For example, a gray component density may have a range of 0 to 255. A gray component value of 50% would be equivalent to 128."

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, line 12, with the following:

"At step 34 32, the black generation value is determined. If the gray component density is below a first threshold, the black generation will be at 100%. As discussed above, black generation at 100% sets the black value equal to the minimum CMY value. If the gray component density is above a second threshold, the absolute value of black becomes a constant and the black generation process adjusts the other colors accordingly."